

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of forming a protective layer, comprising the steps of:
applying liquid material to an object from a sprayer mechanism (42) of a coating device;
and

drying said liquid material to form a peelable protective layer,
wherein said sprayer mechanism (42) sprays said liquid material such that said liquid
material is distributed locally at a position close to an edge of said object, and distributed widely
at a position away from said edge of said object.

2. (Currently amended) A coating method according to claim 1, wherein
said coating device is a robot (16a), said sprayer mechanism (42) is attached to an arm of
said robot (16a), and said object is a vehicle body (14).

3. (Currently amended) A coating method according to claim 1, wherein
said sprayer mechanism (42) comprises a plurality of sprayer mechanisms, and said
coating device comprises a plurality of coating devices corresponding to said sprayer
mechanisms, said coating devices are robots (16a-16d), said sprayer mechanisms are attached to
corresponding arms (40) of said robots (16a-16d), and said object is a vehicle body (14).

4. (Currently amended) A coating method according to claim 1, wherein
said sprayer mechanism (42) comprises a first sprayer (44a) and a second sprayer (44b) which
are placed in parallel on an arm of said coating device, said method comprising the step of

moving said first sprayer (44a) close to said edge and moving said second sprayer (44b) away from said edge, and

when said liquid material is sprayed from said first sprayer (44a) and said second sprayer (44b) towards said object, said liquid material is distributed locally from said first sprayer (44a), and said liquid material is distributed widely from said second sprayer (44b).

5. (Currently amended) A coating method according to claim 4, wherein said sprayer mechanism (42) further comprises at least one middle sprayer (44c, 44d, 44e) between said first sprayer (44a) and said second sprayer (44b), and

said liquid material from said middle sprayer (44c, 44d, 44e) is distributed widely in comparison with said liquid material from said first sprayer (44a), and distributed locally in comparison with said liquid material from said second sprayer (44b).

6. (Currently amended) A coating method according to claim 5, wherein intervals between adjacent ones of said first sprayer (44a), middle sprayer (44c, 44d, 44e) and said second sprayer (44b) are large at positions close to said second sprayer (44b) and small at positions close to said first sprayer (44a).

7. (Currently amended) A coating method according to claim 4, wherein spray pressure of said liquid material from said first sprayer (44a) is smaller than that of said second sprayer (44b).

8. (Currently amended) A coating method according to claim 5, wherein spray pressure of said liquid material from said at least one middle sprayer (44c, 44d, 44e) is larger than that of said first sprayer (44a) and smaller than that of said second sprayer (44b).

9. (Currently amended) A coating method according to claim 5, wherein

said sprayer mechanism comprises multiple middle sprayers between said first sprayer (44a) and said second sprayer (44b), and

spray pressure of said liquid material from at least one of said middle sprayers (44c, 44d, 44e) is larger than that of said first sprayer (44a) and smaller than that of said second sprayer (44b).

10. (Original) A coating method according to claim 1, wherein said liquid material comprises acrylic copolymer as a main component.

11. (Currently amended) A coating system comprising:

a coating device provided close to a transport line (12) for an object to be coated,
a sprayer mechanism (42) provided on said coating device,
a supply mechanism which supplies liquid material to said sprayer mechanism (42) to form a peelable protective layer on said object after drying said object, and
a controller (18) which controls said sprayer mechanism (42) of said coating device such that said liquid material is distributed locally at a position close to an edge of said object, and distributed widely at a position away from said edge of said object.

12. (Currently amended) A coating system according to claim 11, wherein said coating device is a robot and said sprayer mechanism (42) is mounted on an arm of said robot (16a-16d), and applies said liquid material to a vehicle body (14) as said object.

13. (Currently amended) A coating system as in claim 11, wherein said sprayer mechanism comprises a plurality of sprayer mechanisms (42), and said coating device comprises a plurality of coating devices corresponding to said sprayer mechanisms, said coating devices are robots (16a-16d), said sprayer mechanisms are attached to corresponding arms of said robots (16a-16d), and said object is a vehicle body (14).

14. (Currently amended) A coating system according to claim 11 wherein said sprayer mechanism comprises a first sprayer (44a) and a second sprayer (44b) which are positioned in parallel on an arm (40), and

when said first sprayer (44a) is close to said edge, while said second sprayer (44b) is away from said edge, said controller (18) controls said sprayer mechanism (42) such that said liquid material is distributed locally from said first sprayer (44a), and said liquid material is distributed widely from said second sprayer (44b).

15. (Currently amended) A coating system according to claim 14, wherein said sprayer mechanism (42) further comprises at least one middle sprayer (44c, 44d, 44e) positioned between said first sprayer (44a) and said second sprayer (44b), and

said controller (18) controls said sprayer mechanism (42) such that said liquid material from said middle sprayer (44c, 44d, 44e) is distributed widely in comparison with said liquid material from said first sprayer (44a), and distributed locally in comparison with said liquid material from said second sprayer (44b).

16. (Currently amended) A coating system according to claim 15, wherein said sprayer mechanism (42) further comprises multiple middle sprayers (44c, 44d, 44e), and

intervals between adjacent ones of said middle sprayers (44c, 44d, 44e) are large at positions close to said second sprayer (44b), intervals between adjacent ones of said middle sprayers (44c, 44d, 44e) are small at positions close to said first sprayer (44a).

17. (Currently amended) A coating system according to claim 11, wherein said controller (18) controls said sprayer mechanism (42) such that spray pressure of said liquid material from said first sprayer (44a) is smaller than that of said second sprayer (44b).

18. (Currently amended) A coating system according to claim 15, wherein

spray pressure of said liquid material from said at least one middle sprayer is larger than that of said first sprayer (44a) and smaller than that of said second sprayer (44b).

19. (Currently amended) A coating system according to claim 15, wherein
said sprayer mechanism comprises multiple middle sprayers (44e, 44d, 44er) between
said first sprayer (44a) and said second sprayer (44b), and
spray pressure of said liquid material from at least one of said middle sprayers (44e, 44d,
44e) is larger than that of said first sprayer (44a) and smaller than that of said second sprayer
(44b).

20. (Currently amended) A coating system according to claim 11, wherein
said sprayer mechanism (42) sprays said liquid material without accompanying air.